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Council approves extra funds for arena

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Minden Hills councillors have approved additional contingency funds for the township's nearly \$13-million arena project, with the project facing an overrun.

After a nearly two-hour-long conversation during their Dec. 12 meeting, councillors approved an additional \$250,000 in contingency funds for the project, which has a budget of some \$12.5-million. While there is currently still more than \$200,000 in the project's contingency fund, it is projected it

will run a deficit of more than \$66,500, and an additional \$183,000 in contingency was being requested, those amounts combined constituting the additional \$250,000. That contingency will be funded through debenture financing.

Community services director Mark Coleman told councillors that part of the reason for the overrun was that the cost for many sub-trades have come in higher than anticipated

"They are not available locally, they do have to come from abroad quite frequently," Coleman said, explaining the tradespeople were travelling to Minden from cities such as

see PROJECT page 2

Septic reinspection program results in remedial action, public awareness

by SUE TIFFIN

Times Staff

Of 1,264 septic systems inspected in Algonquin Highlands this year between June and September through the township's septic re-inspection program, 31 per cent of systems had visible code contraventions and were issued remedial actions.

Katey Sysiuk and Paisley McDowell from WSP Canada Inc. presented a summary of the 2019 septic re-inspection program results to Algonquin Highlands council on Dec. 12 at a regular council meeting.

The 396 septic systems which required a remedial action letter being issued had challenges that include solids occupying or exceeding 33 per cent of the tank volume; trees, bushes, roots or other dense vegetation needing to be removed from the bed area; cracked, broken or missing tank lids; no haulage agreement for Class 5 systems (holding tanks); a metal septic tank or holding tank; or outhouses and composting toilets that weren't vermin proof. In some cases, properties could have received a remedial action letter for more than one cause.

Participation in the inspection program,

see SEPTIC page 11



Lutes in Lochlin

Musician Rob Lutes performs at the Lochlin Community Centre on Dec. 6. His two-hour show was part of the season's offering from the Haliburton County Folk Society. More on page 2. /DARREN LUM Staff



13061 Hwy 35 Minden, ON 705-286-6126



Lutes in Lochlin

Musician Rob Lutes casts a shadow on the chalkboard, under a picture of a young Queen Elizabeth II, as he performs on Friday, Dec. 6 at the intimate venue setting at the Lochlin Community Centre. His two-hour show was part of the season's offering from the Haliburton County Folk Society. Lutes has said that he is inspired by the magical effect music has on people, bringing "people into a place or to a state of mind and ... all experience that together." His work is inspired by Leonard Cohen and Chris Smither./DARREN LUM Staff

Lutes is originally from New Brunswick and reached out to the folk society about performing in Haliburton County. He has won multiple folk awards over the years, including the Canadian Folk Music Contemporary Singer of the Year in 2018.



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Project has projected overrun of \$67,000

from page 1

Toronto, Peterborough and Barrie.

The contract for the project was awarded to the joint project delivery team of McDonald Brothers Construction Ltd. and Parkin Architects Limited, who are in charge of tendering for the sub-tradespeople. Coleman told council that the extra contingency being requested would be enough to get through the remainder of the project, which is running ahead of schedule, and is now anticipated will be completed in June.

"The point is, they don't want to need to come back to council again," said Coleman, who is leaving the township to take a new job with the Municipality of Brockton, which he is scheduled to begin early in the new year.

The project is being conducted through a management model called "integrated project delivery." A feature of that model is what is referred to as a "profit pool," a contingency fund when any saving found accrues, and monies from which, should there be any left over, are split between the municipality and the builders. The builders have also taken money from that profit pool for reaching certain milestones of the project. Back in July, with the contingency fund sitting at nearly \$300,000, \$80,000 was "released," \$40,000 of it going to the companies, and \$40,000 to the township, which it put back into the project for "early integration," or the process of joining the existing community centre building with the new arena.

About half of the work on the new arena has been completed, and more than 90 per cent of the tendering for sub-trades has been completed, Coleman told councillors, noting it was unlikely that any savings would be found in the remaining tenders.

"There's not much, if any, savings to be realized in remaining tendering," he said.

"What's left is painting, millwork and concrete," said Patrick Brousseau of McDonald Bros. Construction. Brousseau and owner Paul McDonald were in council chambers for last week's meeting.

"The project's very dynamic," McDonald told councillors. "The numbers change regularly."

Some changes to the project have had to be made as it's gone along, an extension of the building by five feet that related to snow loading on the roof, for example.

Mayor Brent Devolin said the project could still be brought in at the budget number, suggesting that aspects such as landscaping, for instance, could be put off for the time being.

"It can still be brought in at the number," Devolin said. "We can meet the number that we obligated to when we signed up for this."

If council wants to include a list of "value-added items" for the facility, items such a gym dividers, a projector and screen, win-



Where does this begin and end? I don't know.

— COUNCILLOR PAM SAYNE



dow shades, lobby furniture, etc., it will cost an additional \$305,000 to purchase all the items on the list. Until recently, the cost to complete that list would have been \$455,000, however, the township was successful in an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant application, with the grant covering \$150,000 worth of items.

"This is the good news report of today," Coleman told council.

Items that will be covered by the grant include retractable basketball backstops, fitness room equipment, a portable stage, court posts and nets, rackets and sports balls

Councillor Bob Carter took issue with the report on value-added items, noting that during a meeting in late June, councillors had approved a list of items worth nearly \$150,000, that were prioritized in a different order than on the current list.

"On the 27th of June, we approved a list of items," Carter said, noting some of those items were not prioritized in the new report. "We're approving things, now we're taking this out."

The minutes from the June 27 meeting show that council passed the following resolution: "And further, that council approves, at this time, \$40,000 in early integration costs and consultant fees towards the value-added items that are design and construction time sensitive ranked as No. 1s and 2s currently totalling \$149,187..."

Among those items was the paving of the balance of arena parking lot, valued at \$56,000. However, in the report on value-added items that was part of last week's meeting, the paving project, now valued at more than \$68,000, was part of the \$305,000 worth of outstanding value-added items that could, according to the report, "be added at any time."

Carter said he found it concerning that, between the contingency funding and money for value-added items, more than \$500,000 in new costs were presenting themselves.

Councillors deferred voting on the \$305,000 worth of value-added items pending further clarification, and Coleman said he took responsibility for any misunderstanding that had occurred.

"I'm trying to hold back what I'm thinking and feeling right now," said Councillor Pam Sayne, noting that if the \$250,000 in new contingency was not approved, that a number of finishes with the building would be downgraded – painted steel railing instead of stainless steel, for example. "These are kind of downsizing what this community expected of us."

As for the request for further funds, Sayne said, "Where does this begin and end? I don't know. I really don't have a good feeling that there's going to be ground under this."

Additionally, while the township will pay for the bulk of the project through a loan from provincial lending agency Infrastructure Ontario, some aspects are ineligible under Infrastructure Ontario's criteria, so just over \$1 million now needs to come from another source. A financing update from treasurer and chief administrative officer Lorrie Blanchard suggested using a combination of township reserve funds to cover those costs in the absence of other sources of financing, a plan endorsed by council.

A fundraising group for the arena project has been formed, and its goal is to raise \$750,000 to help offset costs.

Lots of carving to do on MH budget

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

The first round of 2020 Minden Hills budget discussions was a lengthy one during a Dec. 12 meeting, and staff will bring back revised and reduced budget reports at a subsequent meeting.

The budget process in Minden Hills involves department heads bringing their ideal budgets, essentially wish lists, before council, and then council making reductions from there through a series of meetings. The tax levy increase in the first draft budget is 34 per cent over last year, a figure that will come down drastically through the budgeting process.

"I don't think a number can get beyond double digits, I think that's totally out of the game," said Mayor Brent Devolin. "Anyone disagree with that?"

No members of council did.

"I think that's as far as we can go without getting shot daily on the street," said Devolin, whose ideal target seemed to be around seven per cent.

"I would like to be between five and six," said Councillor

The tax levy increase in Minden Hills for 2019 was 6.4 per cent, equating to a residential tax rate increase of just more than three per cent.

Most of the township's 2020 departmental draft budgets included large increases over 2019, some in the range of 20 per cent, public works at 46 per cent, and the chief building officer's department at 70 per cent.

As a report from CBO Colin McKnight indicated, the increase in his department is largely because of increased staffing related to the township's septic re-inspection program, as well as investigating regulations on short-term rental accommodations and increased legal costs. The department's draft budget for the first round was nearly \$420,000, an increase of some \$173,000.

By far the largest portion of the budget goes to public works, where the increase in the draft was 46 per cent over last, or an increase of more than \$2.1 million, from \$4.5 million to a draft total of more than \$6.6 million. Because of the expense and large number of projects, it's the department where council does a great deal of financial trimming during the budget process.

Public works director Travis Wilson cautioned council about the implications of deferring too many projects for too long. Wilson used the example of the reconstruction of IGA

Road, which has been shovel-ready and on the books for a number of years now.

'This is a project that we defer, and we defer," Wilson said, adding that eventually, the township could wind up with a lengthy list of items that all need to completed around the same time.

"The list that I have right now becomes twice as long in a couple more years," Wilson said.

In the economic development, destination and marketing department, which includes the operation of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, there was a draft budget increase of 22 per cent, or a nearly \$123,000 increase over 2019. As economic development, destination and marketing officer Emily Stonehouse told members of council, a major capital expense will be the installation of a new HVAC system at the cultural centre, considered important to adequately preserve its collection of Andre Lapine paintings. It's anticipated the system will cost \$50,000. The implementation of a community improvement plan is also planned for the township in 2020. A community improvement plan allows council, through a bylaw, to establish a physical area wherein the township can offer financial incentives to private property owners – both residential and commercial - for physical improvements to

Carter wondered if council was going to make cuts to the department's draft budget, "what is it in your total budget that would get impacted first by that?"

Stonehouse said that improvements to the building, including the HVAC system, would take priority, and that there could be some wiggle room on the community improvement



We'd all love to go below five [per cent], but realistically, I don't think that's possible.

— DEPUTY MAYOR LISA SCHELL



"And I'll be the first to admit we don't know how successful that will be within our community at this time," Stonehouse said, explaining there has not been overwhelming interest from business owners and residents so far.

In the community services department, its draft budget contained an increase of 26 per cent, or a \$255,000 increase over last year, for a draft total of more than \$1.2 million.

"The majority (\$195,000) of this increase is associated with the proposed staffing plan to improve parks and cemetery maintenance as well as the increase in operational demands with the new larger community/centre arena coming online in June 2020," read a report from outgoing community services director Mark Coleman. Coleman is leaving the township, taking a job as community services director with the Municipality of Brockton, which is scheduled to begin on

Carter asked Coleman if there was something the municipality should be doing differently when it came to the maintenance of its cemeteries, and Coleman said that some municipalities wholly contract out the maintenance of the cemeteries they own.

Councillor Pam Sayne said council needed to keep many of the township's already financially struggling residents in mind when contemplating the level by which taxes would increase.

"We have a tax base here of people whose incomes aren't going to be increasing and some of them are even going down, compared to what we're going up," Sayne said.

Devolin, who stressed a few times during the meeting that tax increases, in actual dollar figures, are not usually as bad as they sound in percentages, suggested that the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus again begin advocating with the province to dedicate a one per cent HST increase to Ontario's municipalities.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said given all the requirements before council, she didn't see how an increase of less than five per cent would be possible.

"Just based on the arena, and new staffing that's required ... and other departments as well, I don't see how that's possible unless we start cutting staff before the building's even finished," Schell said. "We'd all love to go below five, but realistically, I don't think that's possible. I'd love to say zero, but it's not realistic, if we want to continue growing.'

Ultimately, council instructed treasurer and chief administrative officer Lorrie Blanchard to aim in the vicinity of a six per cent increase for the second round of budget discussions.

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Seasons Greetings

From the

Township of Minden Hills Council and Staff would like to wish everyone in Minden Hills a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Administration Office Dec 16th to Dec 23rd 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 AM to Jan 1st, 2020

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery

<u>Landfills</u>
All Sites are **CLOSED** Dec 25th & Jan 1st

Minden Hills Community Centre CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:00 AM to Dec 26th Dec 27th to Dec 30th – Call for Hours Dec 31st 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM CLOSED Jan 1st

Community Services Department Administration Office
Dec 16th to Dec 20th 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Dec 23rd 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM CLOSED Dec 24th at 11:30 AM to Jan 1st, 2020

Regular hours resume Jan 2nd

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Public Welcome

Meetings are held at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street

Jan 9 - Standing Budget Committee Meeting Jan 30 - Combined COTW & Council Meeting

For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca

Note: Council meetings are reduced to one (1) for the months of **December and January**

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

WINTER SAND AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Is available at the Minden Curling Club parking lot, 50 Prentice Street for residential use. Please note there is a limit of one five-gallon container per car. Sand is for personal use only, no commercial users please.

CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for volunteers to participate as members on the Minden Hills Community Centre Fundraising Working

If you, or someone you know, enjoy being involved in an interactive volunteer committee, and/or want to be part of a historic, community based project for Minden Hills, and/or have fundraising experience, and/or administrative skills please complete and submit an Advisory Committee Application Form in person, by mail or email to

Minden Hills Community Centre Fundraising Group Application Clerk's Department, 2nd floor Township of Minden Hills 7 Milne Street, PO Box 359 Minden, ON K0M 2K0 or email: sprentice@mindenhills.ca

This is an open call for applications until membership is filled.

For more information, please contact Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services at mcoleman@mindenhills.ca. Application Forms are e online at https://mindenhills.ca/adviso

NOTICE – 2020 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 2nd round of its 2020 Budget deliberations during its Standing Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for January 9, 2020.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers. located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Vicki Bull, Clerk • 705-286-1260 ext. 215 • vbull@mindenhills.ca

Teachers continue job action with second strike

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

As colleagues walked back and forth in front of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, carrying flags and picket signs during the second one-day strike in two weeks, their collective bargaining representative for OSSTF - Haliburton Jason Morissette spoke about negotiations between the provincial government and the teachers' union.

"We're here because we truly are fighting to protect, honestly, our students and the quality of education and the accessibility to it. Imagine being a special needs student and you're forced to do online learning. It's a devastating proposal and to cut your services for a lot of the most vulnerable kids in our community. What will happen to the system? Graduation rates? Test scores? All of these things," he said.

Close to 40 HHSS teachers and teachers from the neighbouring Adult and Alternate Education Centre marched from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11. Organized into two groups, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, the members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation marched the picket line. The group was also joined by CUPE members such as education assistants during their lunch hour.

Major points of contention include class sizes, e-learning, layoffs and compensation. There hasn't been a contract since August.

Morissette said he wants the public to examine the facts, talk to teachers and learn about them and what they are standing up for, which is not just for themselves, but for



Teachers walk outside along the sidewalk, steps from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School during the one-day strike on Wednesday, Dec. 11 in Haliburton. There were close to 40 teachers out on the picket line, joined by CUPE members at lunch hour. /DARREN LUM Staff



the students and quality education.

With a retired HHSS teacher for a father, three children attending Haliburton public schools, and being a HHSS graduate himself, Morissette is a passionate proponent of the public education system.

"I call it one of the greatest equalizers in society. There's a lot of people that come from different circumstances and because they get access to a quality public education system [they are afforded opportunities]," he said. "All these kids here are all in here together. Whatever your background is, wherever you come from ... It really builds for a strong, strengthened education opportunity and experience, but it also builds for a strong community. You get to know every walk of life. That's why I love working every day."

He said he's never experienced this kind of strike action before.

"I've never done this. I've never been on strike while on the picket line. It hasn't happened since 1997," he said.

As a teacher's son, he learned about the time and effort a teacher puts in outside of school hours

Morissette said he spent many hours travelling with students, riding school buses for field trips, academics or sports. He acknowledges he and other teachers benefit as much as the students from these experiences, but points out many extracurriculars are made possible because of the involvement and passion of teachers.

"I'm talking about all kinds of things that we do because it's good for kids, it's good for us and our spirit, but, again, if you demoralize the profession, if you demoralize and don't value a public education system that's very successful, and you're saying, it isn't. Then you're saying you want to make extreme changes to a system that you think is broken. By all measure of the data, just look at the facts, it's a very successful system. It's

been very successful for many, many decades. Many years," he said.

Four teachers' unions are filing a court challenge against the provincial government over Bill 124, the Protecting Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act. Unions said this bill caps all public sector salary increases to one per cent annually for the next three years. They contend this violates their charter rights.

Morissette was angered by this government action.

"You can't legislate. That's not a good start. For anything, anybody. I don't care, if it's the teachers, or anybody. In society, a good relationship is built upon mutual respect. I don't think legislating is showing any sign of respect towards our profession or the system, the students and their needs," he said.

Responding to OSSTF job action, Minister of Education Stephen Lecce released a statement: "OSSTF union leadership have made clear that they will continue to take job action – which hurts students most – unless taxpayers accept their demand of \$7 billion in enhancements to salaries, benefits, and other entitlements.

"If there were any question that this wasn't about salary, those doubts were put to bed when the four teacher unions launched their challenge to legislation that deals with compensation increases for the public service.

"We have made a reasonable offer on compensation – a \$750 million increase in compensation for the second highest paid educators in the country.

"We are calling on OSSTF to cease from continued job action, accept our offer of private mediation, stay at the table, and focus on improving learning in the classroom, not enhancing compensation for their members."

Morissette said OSSTF will give five days notice before another walkout.

"I hope people understand," he said.

Man dies after truck breaks through ice

Times Staff

A 57-year-old man is dead after a truck went through the ice on Bushwolf Lake, near Eagle Lake in Dysart et al, last Saturday.

Haliburton Highlands OPP reported Larry Bagg was plowing a track on the ice for recreational purposes when the truck broke through the ice. The lone occupant was still in the submerged pickup truck when first responders arrived just after 4 p.m. on Dec. 14.

He was recovered from the truck by Algonquin Highlands Fire Department – Ice Rescue with assistance from Dysart et al fire department, and taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Constable Sean Hawley with Haliburton Highlands OPP told the *Times* OPP stresses it that "no ice is safe ice."

A post mortem has been ordered by the coroner, police said on Tuesday.

Fire truck rollover

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt posted a statement on social media on Dec. 15, noting that firefighters from Station 80 in Stanhope responded to the accident and that, "during the course of that call one of our fire trucks, with four firefighters on board, experienced difficulties in the challenging weather conditions, slid off the road and rolled over."

Moffatt said all four firefighters were attended to at hospital. "One firefighter required further treatment and is resting at home," she wrote."No one else was seriously injured."

Moffatt thanked volunteer firefighters, calling them "one of our greatest assets," and

who perished in the initial ice and water call;

is early in the season to be out on the ice, and responded to news of the death by saying calls like these are heart-breaking and affect "Our thoughts are with the family of the man a wide range of folks and families in a small

Algonquin Highlands office closed following threat

on Friday, Dec. 13 after the township received a threat on social media.

"Earlier today staff were made aware of social media posts that contained language of enough concern to contact police," Mayor Carol Moffatt said in a statement. "In consultation with the OPP the municipal office, library, public works garage and community centre on North Shore Road have been closed

Algonquin Highlands staff were sent home for the remainder of the day and staff have been sent home.'

"We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this causes to the public; the safety and well-being of staff is our primary concern," Moffatt said. "The OPP are monitoring the situation. As the official spokesperson for the municipality I will provide any necessary updates. There is no threat to public safety."





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Too good to be true

CHAD INGRAM

Reporter

F SOMETHING SEEMS too good to be true, it probably is. In the lead-up to Minden Hills council's approval of the arena project in February, councillors who were skeptical about it and opposed to proceeding, along with members of the public, were assured again and again that project - a \$13-million leviathan, the largest capital project in the township's history - would not, could not, go over budget.

The reason for that, supposedly, was the way the project is being managed, which is through an integrated project delivery format, something more common in the U.S. than it is in Canada.

Of course, most large capital projects go over budget, and, despite the apparently revolutionary way in which this one is being delivered, the Minden Hills arena project is going over budget too.

Councillors heard last week that, while there is still just more than \$205,000 currently sitting

in a contingency fund for the project, it's forecasted that it will end with a \$67,000 deficit. Under the delivery model, tendering for the sub-trades is overseen by the joint project delivery team, which is the construction company and architectural firm who designed and are building the facility.

An additional \$250,000 in contingency funding was requested and approved by council, \$67,000 of that essentially to cover the projected overrun, and an additional \$183,000 to finish the project. That contingency fund, under the integrated project delivery model, is referred to as a "profit pool," the idea being that, if anything is left over at the end of the project, it is to be split between the project delivery team and the municipality. Supposedly it means risk is shared and should provide incentive for the project delivery team to find savings through tendering along the way, those savings being put back into the profit pool.

Now, regular readers of this

publication may recall that, in July, with the contingency fund, or profit pool, sitting at nearly \$300,000, the township agreed to "release" \$80,000 of it. Half of that money went to the township, which was put back into the project, and half, \$40,000, went jointly to the construction company and architectural firm. The joint project delivery was "comfortable" doing that, community services director Mark Coleman told council at the time.

Comfortable. How nice for them. Apparently that comfort was premature, since last week they came back to council, hat in hand, asking for

> and receiving an extra quarter-million dollars. That's fundamentally problematic and something that, as a Minden Hills taxpayer, I find absolutely infuriating. What's more, is that should all of that new contingency not be spent, half will go back to the township, half to the joint project delivery team.

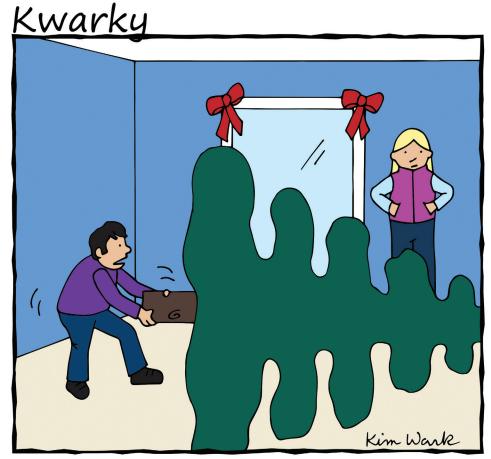
That's not to mention the additional \$305,000 it

will cost the township for "value-added items" at the facility, things like window shades and furniture for the lobby, as well as the paving of the balance of the parking lot.

Council has yet to vote on that expenditure, and should consider how necessary any of those items are at this time. Last week Mayor Brent Devolin said the project could still come in at its \$12.5-million budget, if aspects such as landscaping were put off, and these are the types of things that council needs to start doing now.

Enough public money has been spent on this project. More than enough. Too much. Stop throwing money down this hole. The building is going get finished. Anything additional that is not required for accessibility should be put off for now, perhaps to be paid for in future years through grants, surpluses, etc.

The focus now should not be finishing the project. The focus now should be mitigating the financial pain.



"Of course it's going to fit!"

Sleep and the outdoors enthusiast

OW THAT winter is almost upon us and the days are about to get longer, the outdoorsman and outdoorswoman faces one of nature's cruelest jokes.

On one hand there is more time to be outside in daylight, which is good. On the other hand, there is no longer an excuse to sleep in. For most of us, this is bittersweet.

You see, somewhere along the way, we

outdoors enthusiasts decided that rising early, often long before the sunrise, is the only thing that separates us

from the apes. Consider this another reason why they are smarter.

Eventually, we used early rising as a point of pride that we could lord over everyone except or course farmers, who as far as I know, do not sleep at all. Instead, I believe, they merely go to bed early and think of vaguely folksy sayings like, "It takes two good oxen to draw a heavy cart" for

use on any fool looking for a simple answer to a complex question.

What is it about getting up early that you could possibly lord over everyone?

Well, we commonly go on about the beauty of sunrise, seeing the world as it wakes, getting to see animals on the move and catching fish when they are most active.

What we don't divulge is that each of these is a best case scenario. We ever mention that there are also plenty of times when the clouds, snow and rain obscure sunrise, the world sleeps in, animals move away from the area you are in and fish are less active.

We don't let non-outdoorsy types in on this because they already think we are crazy for getting up at 4 a.m. for the chance to miss a duck and we don't want to add fuel to the

Worse still, we outdoorsmen and women do not have the common sense to go to bed early before a day outside. We intend to, but end up fussing over our gear, checking weather forecasts, planning for the wind, making the next day's lunch and deciding how we will over- or under-dress for the occasion. This typically keeps us up late enough that it's hardly worth going to bed.

The short days of late helped make all this less painful. And secretly, every outdoors

person I know has been taking great satisfaction in not having to wake up earlier than an overachieving rooster. Sadly all that is going to change on the 21st of December, which is when the days get longer and the sun rises a bit earlier again.

From that point on, the outdoorsy folk in every household will start getting up a little earlier every morning to go ice fishing, rabbit hunting, late season goose hunting, or any one of a number

of other outdoors pursuits.

I'd tell you why but, if you prefer laying in a soft, warm bed for as long as you can each morning, with your head on a nice plush pillow, dreaming sweet dreams and anticipating a hot coffee and a delicious, leisurely breakfast, you probably wouldn't understand why someone might prefer getting up at an ungodly hour and laying on the frozen ground in a goose field or watching ice floes while fishing in a frigid river. Don't worry; neither do they.

I once asked an old timer why he thought that might be and he uttered a wise, folksy saying. If I recall correctly, he said, "It takes two good oxen to draw a heavy cart."

Then he shook his head and started his



STEVE GALEA Beyond 35

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The perfect Christmas tree

THERE'S NEWS this week that an electric eel named Wattson is being used to help light up a Christmas tree at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga.

This would be wildly exciting news to my dad. He was a starry-eyed Christmas tree connoisseur, and if alive today our living room would have an aquarium filled with electric eels illuminating our Christmas tree.

Searching for and decorating the absolute perfect Christmas tree was an obsession in our house.

The annual Christmas tree project began two weeks before Dec. 25. Dad would start it off by honing the axe. Artificial trees barely existed back then and considering one, instead of a live trophy cut and dragged from

the woods, would be sacrilegious.



JIM POLING SR. From Shaman's Rock

And, there was no chainsaw. No saw of any kind. Only a hand axe could be used in the devout work of whacking down the perfect Christmas

On an appointed morning, usually during a storm of the century, we would trek into the snowy woods to begin the hunt for the perfect

After trudging for an hour through the deepest part of the woods we would end up back at the forest edge where we began.

"That's the one!" my father would declare, eyeing a tall balsam that was the first tree we had passed when entering the woods an hour earlier. "It's perfect.'

The perfect tree always was balsam and always a giant, 20 to 30 feet tall. Balsam held their needles much better than spruce, my father said, and the tallest trees had the best crowns.

The harvesting began with my father cutting away lower branches to make room to swing the axe into the tree's smooth trunk. The thunking of the axe resounded through the forest as wood chips floated in the air like oversize pieces of confetti.

This was strenuous work and after a minute or two my father's rimless glasses would fog, making it difficult for him to see the angle of the cut, which determined where the tree would fall.

My father told us precisely where the tree would fall but anyone betting on the accuracy of his precision was sure to lose their money. Or consciousness, if you could not get out of the way quickly.

We children witnessing the cutting were frozen with apprehension as the axe did its work. The first crack signalling that the tree was falling sent us scrambling through the snow, desperately trying to guess where the tree would land.

When the tree was down, and all bodies counted to ensure no one was pinned beneath it, the crown would be measured for living room height and the axe would be put to work again.

There was no enlightened environmental thinking back then. We were surrounded by tens of thousands of trees and no one thought twice about cutting a large healthy specimen and taking just its crown for Christmas.

After being dragged home the tree was anchored in a pail of hard-packed sand and set in a corner of the living room.

Strings of ancient lights that could never pass an electrical inspection were placed strategically on the branches. Then coloured balls were hung on branch tips where they would catch and reflect the red, blue, green and yellow lights.

Then came that final, and most important, decorating step – adding the

Tinsel was the real deal back then, long strips of tin or lead foil that were malleable and could be bent around a branch to stay firmly in place. Not like today's flimsy silvery strips that fly off at a sneeze. Tinseling the tree was an art performed only by father. He did, however, instruct us in the do's and don'ts of tinsel hanging so we could participate as we got older. Sort of an apprenticeship in tinsel hanging.

When every branch was fully draped with tinsel all our family would gather around the tree, eyes wide with wonder. No one said a word as the glow from the tree's colourful lights danced happily off the decorative balls, sparkling tinsel and our awe-filled faces.

No words were needed because no one needed to be told that we were viewing the perfect Christmas tree.

Coffee's warm embrace

Practical Fitness

WAS ONCE asked what motivates me to get up in the morning (casual conversation at a Christmas party a couple of years ago). In that moment I couldn't quite find the answer. After pondering a couple of days I thought it was that I was keen to make this new day better than yesterday. After thinking about it a little longer

I changed my answer. The truth for me is that it's just thinking of that first sip of coffee. That's what gets me up and out of bed. It's not about the whole cup, just that first sip.

Talk about an industry that has taken off. These days it seems that coffee shops and microbreweries have got the market cornered in the beverage world. I will admit to being somewhat of a coffee snob but

I really do love that first sip in the morning. I will drink instant coffee if there isn't anything else around.

Coffee comes from trees. The beans that we know and love to grind are actually the roasted seeds from the fruit that is called the coffee cherry. The coffee cherry grows along the branches of the tree. Because of the continuous growth cycle it's common to see the flower, the green fruit and the ripe fruit simultaneously on a tree. Coffee plants can live up to 100 years but they are most productive between the ages of seven and

There are many health benefits from drinking coffee on a regular basis including:

- Protective benefits for post-menopausal breast cancer;
- Lower risk of colon cancer in women;
- May prevent the recurrence of liver cancer in adults;
- Lower the risk of developing Type 2
 - Lower the risk of stroke.

And then there's the caffeine buzz. Caffeine naturally occurs in coffee. There is research out now that suggests that up to 400 mg of caffeine on a daily basis does not have adverse health effects. There is approximately 95 mg of caffeine in a brewed cup (8 oz) of coffee so that would be four cups. We're all different so that number is a general guideline. Personally, my limit is three cups or l be-

lieve it negatively affects my sleep.

As with anything, moderation is the key. Enjoy your first, second or third cup fully. Make sure it's not getting in the way of a good night's sleep and watch for the extra calories it adds to your day. A brewed cup of black coffee has less than five calories per cup. When we add the other stuff (cream and sugar) or get the fancy coffees those calories start to add up.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointfor-

Walking club helps keep people active

Dorset News

Lee Ross burgesslt@me.com

Is a drone or a helicopter on your Christmas list this year? Do you want help learning to fly it, or just a safe space to start out? The Dorset Flying Club meets at the rec centre on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$2 and you're asked to please wear gym shoes only.

Is all this snow getting you down? Do you want to get out and stay active but can't do it safely in this weather? Join the walking

club at the rec centre. Walk at your own pace around the gym, meet up with old friends or make new ones! The group meets daily from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Daily guest fee applies or free with membership.

The winner of the Festive Display Contest is the Paint Lake Bridge! Congratulations to the winners and to everyone who entered the contest, they were all spectacular!

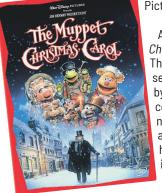
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Remember to be safe this holiday season.

Happy birthday to Steve Thomas, Karen Knutt, Judy Lilliman and Rebecca McFarlane. For birthdays and submissions please send them to burgesslt@me.com.

DVD of the Month -December

The Muppet Christmas Carol

by Jim Henson Productions, distributed by Walt Disney



A light-hearted spin on the classic Dickens tale, The Muppet Christmas Carol is told with all the flare and frivolity that only The Muppets can deliver! Ebaneezer scrooge, a crotchety miser played by a straight-faced Michael Caine, is surrounded by legions of fuzzy, felt puppets as he tries (and fails) to condemn the beloved Christmas season and all the goodness it stands for. With familiar faces like Kermit the Frog as Bob Cratchit, and Gonzo as the iconic narrator Dickens himself, this charming 1992 holiday film has become a family favourite, hitting notes of humour, nostalgia and amusement alike. The film also includes a score of 18 quirky songs beautifully performed by cast members both of flesh and of

felt. Check it out today from the Haliburton County Public Library.





The luncheon was popular with community members getting together for soup, sandwiches and, of course, a few baked goods.

Poinsettia lunch at St. Paul's

Above, the St. Paul's Anglican Church annual Pointsetta luncheon was popular with community members getting together for soup, sandwiches and, of course, a few baked goods on Nov. 22 in Minden. /SUE TIFFIN

Right, Cindy Thistle and Reverend Canon Joan Cavanaugh chat at the popular St. Paul's Anglican Church pointsettia lunch.





Mary Hamilton serves up hot bowls of soup with a smile.



Getting together at Our Lady of Fatima

With smiles and festive cheer, Carol Thompson and Connie Carson greeted long lines of people attending Our Lady of Fatima's annual church luncheon held in Minden on Dec. 6. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



Our Lady of Fatima church's annual Christmas luncheon was held Dec. 6, offering a light lunch, plenty of sweet treats and the chance for residents to get together and take a break prior to the holiday season.



Highland Hills United Church welcomed the community in to the annual Christmas luncheon held Nov. 29 in Minden.





Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your friends at the "D"!

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Highland Hills celebrates the season

For a brief moment, the bustle in the kitchen paused for a pic at the Highland Hills United Church annual Christmas luncheon held Nov. 29. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



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Ski and snowshoe trails photo contest to promote tourism

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Dec. 12 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council.

Algonquin Highlands parks, recreation and trails manager Chris Card hopes to promote trails in the area through a contest engaging those using them.

"As we move into winter season, trails related staff will be focusing on increasing awareness of the ski and snowshoe trails,"

said Card in his report to council, noting staff wanted to move forward with a social mediabased photo contest specific to ski and snowshoe trails.

"It is the intent to reach out to the county's tourism department, the area regional tourism organization as well as area tourism

stakeholders to promote this initiative, seeking package deal prizes from tourism stakeholders and creating cross-promotion opportunities," wrote Card. He said staff "would like to offer two days of ski pass with rentals and camping for two adults, a value of \$210" as part of a promotional prize package for contest winners.

"It sounds like a great idea," said Moffatt, noting that it aligns with the county's tourism initiative to collect user-generated content online from those using certain hashtags. "It allows people to have a small smile if their photograph has been picked up as part of that process and ends up somewhere in a promotion."

Those interested should follow Parks, Recreation & Trails of Algonquin Highlands on Facebook or AH Park Rec & Trails on Twitter. More information on local trails available at https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/visitors/ski-snowshoe-trails.php.

After the Hydro One outage

Mayor Carol Moffatt discussed a scheduled power outage that occurred on Nov. 24 and was estimated by Hydro One to affect some 11,000 of their customers. The outage was scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and was required for the company to do work on the hydro grid.

"For what I think is the first time ever, Hydro One did engage with the municipalities, saying they were having this outage," said Moffatt. "They tried. It didn't quite work." Hydro One had provided a map of the affected area which was posted to social media and sent to Hydro One customers who had signed up for alerts.

"The challenge is, as much as they tried, it just didn't work very well because people relied on the map and there were people who were well outside the map line, who didn't get a text, and whose power went out, and vice versa, so it was just problematic," said

She noted there were also public concerns with the time of year Hydro One was doing the upgrades, potentially leaving people without heat at a time of cold weather. She said she had reached out to Hydro One to discuss better practices in ensuring people have the information they need, including vulnerable people and emergency personnel.

Algonquin Highlands fire chief Mike Cavanaugh said emergency personnel had met to prepare for any concerns during the outage, offering a contact to Hydro One in case of an influx of people needing assistance or should work need to go longer.

"It was definitely a new one for us to deal with," he said.

Memorial Bench request

A memorial bench in the Dorset Parkett for Ab Carr, who died in November 2018, was requested by his wife, Mary Anne Miller-Carr, in a letter to to the township.

"We cottaged for 25 years on Kawagama Lake and Dorset has always held a special place in our hearts and I would like to honour his memory with a bench similar to the two that are currently installed," reads her letter. She hoped to have the bench installed early next spring, weather permitting. Miller-Carr would fund the bench while the township would help in placing it.

"That's a nice thing to do, and it provides a little bit of infrastructure in the park and memorializes someone," said Moffatt. "We're always happy to do that."



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Septic reinspections protect lake health

from page 1

which looks at onsite sewage systems for compliance with Section 8.9 of the Ontario Building Code and provides education to system owners in an attempt to "protect lake water, drinking water resources, public health and the environment," was 97.9 per cent in 2019, according to the presentation by Sysiuk and McDowell.

In their report, WSP Canada Inc. said 66 per cent of systems inspected in 2019, or 840 systems, were in the Class 4 category, those being septic tank and leaching bed systems. Seventeen per cent, or 219 systems, were Class 1, which includes outhouses and composting toilets. Nine per cent, or 109 systems, were categorized as Class 2, being greywater, and eight per cent, or 96 systems, were Class 5 systems, or holding tanks. No Class 3 systems – cesspools – were inspected. In 2019, 57 per cent of systems were 30 or fewer years old, and two per cent were more than 50 years old.

The WSP Canada Inc. representatives said the program is offering public education, including on proper septic maintenance, minimum leaching or filter beds separation distances for drinking water and surface water quality. Seventy-nine surface water samples were collected in 2019, with three samples exceeding the Provincial Water Quality

"As stewards of lake health, what do we do with this?" asked Mayor Carol Moffatt. "Is it your estimation that the program itself and replacement systems will remediate these kinds of numbers or is there other things that we should be looking at?"

"We feel that public education is a strong way to go with that," replied McDowell. "It's home owners' awareness of not just septic maintenance but, what soaps do you use. Phosphorous comes from a lot of different sources. There's not a lot of agriculture in this area which is why it's a good area to do this sort of phosphorous assessment, because septic is one of the, as we estimate, the main contributors."

McDowell clarified that at this point the team is still connecting data regarding phosphorous and algal bloom risk in

'The results speak to the reason why you do it," said Moffatt. "It's good information. The health of the lakes as we've said, our entire lifestyle and economy all relies on lake health so it's good stuff."

In 2020, the inspection zone will include areas surrounding Big Hawk and Little Hawk Lake, Raven Lake and Oxtongue Lake. WSP plans to issue letters in spring 2020 which include program information as well as a request for property owners to contact WSP to book an inspection date.

According to Sysiuk and McDowell's presentation, "properties that have metal tanks will be given an opportunity to apply for a permit to replace their tank, and attain exemption from the inspection program."

The program continues in 2021, and will include inspections of areas that include Kawagama Lake, Livingstone Lake, Fletcher Lake and Crown Lake.

More information about the septic re-inspection program is available at https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/septicre-inspection-program.php.



The health of the lakes as we've said, our entire lifestyle and economy all relies on lake health.

- MAYOR CAROL MOFFATT



Algonquin Highlands council meets on Dec. 12. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



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Doc to explore Horseshoe Lake mystery

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

In 1934, Harold Heaven disappeared from his cabin on Horseshoe Lake, never to be seen again, alive or dead. That story has become a legend within the family and now, Harold's great-great nephew and his filmmaker friends intend to turn that legend into a documentary.

Mike Mildon, Heaven's relative, and Jackson Rowe visited Minden Hills councillors during their Dec. 12 meeting, asking permission to shoot on township property for their documentary, *For Heaven's Sake*, which is to air on CBC.

"Basically he disappeared, and his body was never found," Mildon told councillors, explaining how the cabin is still there and how the story has been passed though generations of his family. "It's a ghost story, almost, because we don't know what really happened."

Mildon and Rowe were requesting to film on township property in general, between Jan. 5 and April 30.

"Minden is an integral part of the story, and because this is a documentary, the story will change the more people we talk to," read a submission from Mildon and Rowe. "That is why we are requesting to film in the township wherever the story takes us. We anticipate filming Main Street, the Gull River, Riverwalk trail, the cultural centre, Horseshoe Lake as well as surrounding lake and other areas as needed. As well, we anticipate filming private establishments like the Dominion Hotel, the Legion, and other historic properties, all with the permission of their owners, of course. We'd like to take our small film crew to places like Tuesday night bingo, the genealogy club and open mic night at the Dominion Hotel, watching as the story unfolds."

"In principle, I'm supportive of what you're doing," said Mayor Brent Devolin, adding there were some logistical and technical questions that would need to be answered before council could issue that permission – would filming cause obstructions in public places, insurance implications, etc.

"So, part of this is process," Devolin said, indicating council's meeting at the end of the January would be the earliest it could approve the request.



Jackson Rowe, left, and Mike Mildon speak to Minden Hills councillors about filming in the township for their documentary, *For Heaven's Sake*, which will explore the 1934 disappearance of Harold Heaven, Mildon's great-great uncle, from Horseshoe Lake. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

With temperatures dropping and the holiday season upon us, ensure that festivities are both happy and safe by making fire safety a priority.

"While enjoying this festive time with friends, families and loved ones, keep fire safety in mind," said Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General. "By following a few seasonal safety tips, we can help ensure our homes are fire free, and safely enjoy the holiday season."

Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management offers simple tips to enjoy a fire-safe holiday season:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking. If you must leave, turn off the stove.
- •Blow out candles before leaving the room.
- If you're putting up a fresh Christmas tree, keep the base of the trunk in water at all times.
- •Inspect and throw away old and damaged lights before
- Keep space heaters away from anything that can burn, including curtains and furniture.
- Install and test smoke alarms on every floor and outside all sleeping areas of your home.
- Don't forget about carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. In Ontario, you must have a working CO alarm adjacent to each sleeping area of the home if you have a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage.
- Make sure everyone knows two ways to get out of your home. Plan and practice a home fire escape plan with family members and holiday guests.
- Designate a street light or mailbox outside as the meeting place where everyone can be accounted for. Never re-enter a burning building.

"Make fire safety a holiday tradition," said Jon Pegg, Ontario's Fire Marshal. "Telling guests about your family's home fire escape plan, testing your home's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and keeping doors and other exits clear of items like boots and shoes, are all key to enjoying the holiday season."





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Holiday artwork by students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School

see more in County Life Season's Greeting section



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Sing along in Lochlin

Above, guests at the Lochlin United Church annual oldfashioned Christmas carol singalong event braved the snow squalls to keep warm alongside each other on Dec. 11. Donations to local food banks were accepted.

Left, Reverend Harry Morgan led the annual Lochlin United Church old-fashioned Christmas Carol singalong alongside friends on Dec.11 before warming up with hot cider and enjoying snacks and fellowship while outside the weather was somewhat frightful. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



Dorset Tower promoting cash-free visits

by SUE TIFFIN Times Staff

Algonquin Highlands council discussed a staff proposal to make fees at Dorset Tower payable by credit or debit card only in part to lessen administration time in managing cash payments at the popular tourism destination.

Though council agreed with the reasons behind the recommendation at a Dec. 12 council meeting, they questioned the legality of not accepting legal tender at the township attraction.

"There's currency of the country, are you allowed to deny people paying with the currency of the country?" Mayor Carol Moffatt asked, echoing a concern from Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen, who had asked if not accepting cash would be legal.

Staff and council discussed possibly encouraging the use of payment by credit or debit card rather than cash through staff at the tower, making the guideline part of an internal procedure as opposed to through an official bylaw. Denying cash entirely would pose problems for those who only carry cash, or who are international visitors whose cards might not work on Canadian-based machines.

"Could we go as far as having something made that says in big letters, credit and debit preferred," asked Moffatt.

Councillor Lisa Barry recommended an incentive to pay by card rather than cash, perhaps a discount on fees for those opting to use plastic over paper.

"I have a problem with us saying we're not going to accept the legal tender of the country, but I do like the idea of putting a sign up that says, debit and credit payments preferred," said Danielsen. "...see if that makes an improvement."

Algonquin Highlands CAO Angie Bird said tapping cards on portable point of sale machines also makes the payment process quicker when lines are long at the tower and might be considered enhancement if the township is successful in their bid for an Investing in Canada's Infrastructure Program grant.

Council agreed to circle back for further discussion on the payment process after trialing encouragement of non-cash payment.





Hawks learn about team depth in loss to Spartans

Times Staff

There were plenty of lessons learned by the Red Hawks senior boys' basketball team in the home loss to the visiting undefeated Spartans of Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute on Thursday, Dec. 12

Although the Hawks lost 50-36 to drop to 1-2 on the season against the now 3-0 Spartans, their coach Paul Longo loved the effort he saw and sees potential for improvement.

He said the score belies how close the game could have been had their open shots fallen

They had their looks and were competitive despite an off night shooting.

"It's only a 14-point game. I mean it's still a tight game. We get it down to a single-digit game anything can happen," he said. "These guys know there is no lead that is safe the way guys can shoot threes now."

Among his players who can hit from deep is Holden Dupret Smith, who he believes can boost their offence when he gets hot.

"Overall, I'm pretty happy with the effort tonight," he said.

The Hawks started well, winning the first quarter 13-11. They followed up the second with just seven, but kept the Spartans to 12 and were only down by a possession, losing

A third quarter scoring barrage by the visiting Spartans left the senior Red Hawks down by a 16-point deficit. It could have been worse, but Longo went to his bench for a boost.



Longo said his group of five, which includ- brought great energy, excellent ball moveed Brenden Newhook, Tyler Martin, James Alexander, Ethan Glecoff and Teo O'Malley,

Red Hawks centre Ryan Mee jumps for the ball against LCVI Spartans centre Tom Walling for the tip off during Kawartha High School Basketball League action on Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton. The Hawks lost 50-36 and were led in scoring by Holden **Dupret-Smith with seven** points while Walling led all players with 22 points./DARREN LUM Staff

Longo was impressed by a few players in this game such as Martin, who has battled a knee injury, Carson Phillips, who drew a few charging calls, Newhook and Alexander, both effective in moving the ball and settled things when needed, Glecoff moving the ball, and Kyle Davis, finishing with a few rebounds.

Longo said his point guard Brian Kim didn't see much of the third quarter due to foul trouble, amassing four fouls in the first half.

His absence was apparent. Kim was instrumental in the first half score, as he was active on both ends in the first half, driving and finding the open man under the basket or in the open court when he drew double-teams and then pressuring the opposing team's guard, forcing turnovers.

Kim's back court teammate Camden Marra is also integral to the team, Longo added.

"Those two guys are pillars on the defence end. Our defence starts with those two guys and they're speedy and they're quick and they move their feet," he said.

That said, he adds, the two players are not only integral to the defence, but are an important offensively.

Fifth year Spartans player Tom Walling left his stamp on the game, scoring 22 points to lead all players while Hawks player Dupret-Smith scored seven to lead the red and white. Along with Walling's scoring, his presence in the paint (and equally big teammates) was felt on both ends of the court in grabbing boards and blocks. Having big man Joe Boice out of the lineup for personal reasons didn't help the Hawks, as he would have provided some size in the paint to bang against Walling.

Longo acknowledged the physical disparity, but pointed out rebounding is a team effort.

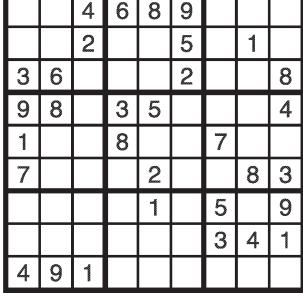
"Everybody needs to rebound. It's a team concept and rebounding starts with boxing out your man and not letting them get in there. So with Tom Walling, he's a very strong player for LCVI. Our job on him was to try and not let him shoot and keep the ball out of his hands so and then when he did get it we tried to double-team and he got some points, I thought we did a good job on him," he said.

The game is being chalked up to a learning experience towards the goal of post-season success against A schools.

"We're always playing for mid-February when we go single A [championship]. With these guys, 11 Grade 11s, we're also playing for next February. You know, we're trying to keep these guys together right to the bitter end. I think we can have some real good success, both this year and certainly next year,"

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Answers on page 20

The way his team performed was a reminder about the quality of his entire roster, which has impressed coach Longo.

need to be ready to go."

"Whether we go five on or five off, which we do sometimes, whether we sub one here or a couple guys at a time, I can look down [that bench and call anyone]," he said.

ment for open looks, and helped to slow the

Spartans in the third after a Spartans 9-0 run. "Man, did they stabilize everything and

settled everything down and really played a strong quarter to keep us in it," he said.

In the fourth quarter, his starting five for

the game "showed a little grit. They realized

they didn't play the way they can in the first

few minutes of that third quarter, but I thought

those five guys showed me something and showed themselves something too," he said.

"Overall, a pretty solid effort. I think we can

play with that team right to the bitter end. We see them again in February. So, again, AA

schools, I try to get all my guys in against AA schools to give them that learning experience.

Our hope is even against A teams all 15 guys

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Spartans keep Hawks grounded in junior basketball action

Red Hawks junior player Scott King focuses on the basket during Kawartha High School Basketball League action against the LCVI Spartans on Thursday, Dec. 12 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton. The Spartans spoiled the Hawks' home game, winning 63-29. /DARREN LUM Staff



Red Hawks junior coach Mike Rieger encourages his players during Kawartha High School Basketball League action against the LCVI Spartans on Thursday, Dec. 12 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton. The Hawks were led by point guard Jackson Wilson with 12 points. /DARREN LUM Staff

Impressive results for HHSS

On Thursday, Dec. 12, the HHSS wrestling team travelled to Belleville to compete at the Bay of Quinte Classic Wrestling Tournament hosted by Bayside Secondary School. Technique continues to improve as the level of competition increases. Hal High wrestlers faced some tougher opponents from the Bay of Quinte region, and battled through several challenging matches. Overall, the Red Hawk wrestlers competed very well throughout the day and ended with another set of impressive

results. With a record of three wins and one loss, Eli Samson finished in third place. Nic Graham, Logan Heaven and Levi Samson each lost a single match as well, and earned second place in their respective weight categories. Owen Wootton continues to show that he is a serious contender in the 72 kg class. Wootton went undefeated to take home the gold. Congratulations to everyone on a great

-Submitted by Paul Klose



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UPCOMING

Community **Events**

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Free Family Skate sponsored by NFTC

When: Monday, Dec. 23, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton **Christmas Eve Service (with choir)**

When: Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

Where: Highland Hills United Church, Minden

Christmas Eve Service

When: Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m.

Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. at Pine

St., Haliburton

Joint Pastoral Charge Evening Service - Communion and Special Guest Music Artists

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd

When: Friday, Dec. 27, noon - 1:30 p.m. Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd

When: Thursday, January 2, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen

Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd

When: Friday, Jan. 3, noon to 1:30 p.m. Where: A. J. LaRue Arena, Haliburton

Minden Legion presents Gord Kidd

When: Saturday, Jan.4, 2 to 5 p.m.

Where: Minden Legion Lunch available to purchase from 12 to 2 p.m., Meat Draw

Taoist Tai Chi - Open Houses Haliburton, Haliburton United Church

Monday, Jan. 6, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon

Kinmount, Galway Community Hall Monday, Jan. 6, 10 a.m. to noon

Thursday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to noon

Stanhope, Stanhope Community Center

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to noon

For more information: contact Wilma at 705-457-5829

Mike Stevens: Harmonica Virtuoso

When: Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 New Castle

Street, Minden

What: Breathe in the world. Breathe out the music. In this energetic and interactive family performance with awe inspiring harmonica virtuoso Mike Stevens, discover that music is inside and around us all the time. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit www.razzamataz.ca/shows/ or contact Dawn Mole-Hurd 705-854-0728

Ladies Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast

When: Sunday, Jan. 12, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall

Cost: \$6, Menu: Eggs or pancakes, bacon or sausage,

hash browns, toast, orange juice, tea/coffee.

Highland Trio in the Clubroom

When: Saturday, Jan. 18, 3 to 6 p.m. Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom

Cost: \$5 cover charge non-members.*50/50 draw at 6 p.m.

Highland Trio in the Clubroom

When: Saturday, Jan. 18, 3 to 6 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom Cost: \$5.00 cover charge for non-members

50/50 draw at 6:00 pm

Ripopée by L'Aubergine

When: Sunday, Mar. 1, 2 p.m.

Where: Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, 5358

Haliburton County Road 21, Haliburton

What: Join four hilarious clowns on their whimsical – and sometimes chaotic - journey. A pure delight for all ages. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit www.razzamataz.ca/shows/ or contact Dawn

Mole-Hurd 705-854-0728



Housing charity gets boost from realtors

Lakelands Association of Realtors presented Places for People Haliburton County with \$1,710 from the Ontario Realtors Care Foundation on Dec. 12 in Minden. From left, realtors Lisa Mercer, David Lee, Tom Ecclestone, Terry Carr, Max Ward of P4P, Lynda Litwin, Fay Martin of P4P, Glenn Scott, Andy Campbell, Andrew Hodgson, and Blake O'Byrne. /DEBBIE COMER Staff



Realtors donate to YWCA safe space

Lakelands Association of Realtors presented YWCA Haliburton **Emergency Rural** Safespace (HERS) with \$4.000 from the **Ontario Realtors Care** Foundation on Dec. 12 in Minden, From left, realtors Andrew Hodgson, Lisa Mercer, Tom Ecclestone, Tammy Holland-Warburton, Blake O'Byrne, David Lee. Andy Campbell and Lynda Litwin. /DEBBIE **COMER Staff**



Bowling Scores

Monday afternoon bowling Dec. 9

High Average (cumulative)

Women – Cathy Snell – 220 Men – Rick West – 228

This Week's Highs – Women

High Single – Cathy Snell – 230 High Single Hcp – Clara Vuksic – 259

High Triple – Cathy Snell – 661

High Triple Hcp - Chris Cote - 687

This Week's Highs - Men

High Single – 257 Gary Hunt

High Single Hcp – Gary Hunt – 285

High Triple – Rick West – 675

High Triple Hcp – Al Humphries – 735

Tuesday afternoon bowling Dec. 10 Men

High Average - Claude Cote - 192

High Single – Ken Thompson – 236 High Single H/C – Ken Thompson – 265

High Triple – Ken Thompson – 619

High Triple H/C – Ken Thompson – 706

Women

Ladies:

High Average – Chris Cote – 185 High Single – Chris Cote – 247

High Single H/C - Chris Cote - 281

High Triple – Chris Cote – 619 High Triple H/C - Chris Cote - 721

Thursday afternoon seniors bowling Dec. 12

High Single: Gloria Wagg 250 High Single hdcp: Gloria Wagg 298 High Triple: Gloria Wagg 592

High Triple hdcp: Gloria Wagg 736

High Single: Doug Reinwald 236 High Single hdcp: Doug Reinwald 262 High Triple: Doug Reinwald 574 High Triple hdcp: Jim Routcliff 679w

Haliburton Red Wolves Bowling Scores Casey Heley 171, Emily Boccitto 154,

Jeffrey Coulson 142, Brodie Mason 14, Skylar Pratt 138, Luke Shapiera 138

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8	7	2	4	3	5	9	1	6
3	6	9	1	7	2	4	5	8
9	8	6	3	5	7	1	2	4
1	2	3	8	4	6	7	9	5
7	4	5	9	2	1	6	8	3
2	3	8	7	1	4	5	6	9
6	5	7	2	9	8	3	4	1
4	9	1	5	6	3	8	7	2



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Ray Kidon shared this photo of wild turkeys at Little Bob Lake in Minden Hills.





Tammy Nash shared this photo of a pine marten, taken in Algonquin Park. What do you suppose it's looking at?

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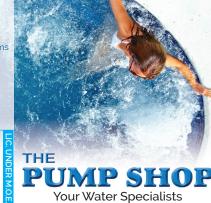
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560 ANNOUNCEMENTS

St James, Kinmount

St. Paul's, Minden

Anglican Church Services

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th.

St. Peter's, Maple Lake 2:00 p.m.

Are you celebrating Christmas away from family

this year, can't travel, or just don't want to cook?

Come join us at St. Paul's Minden for

Christmas Dinner Dec. 25th.

Refreshments at 12:30P.M., Dinner at 1:00 P.M.

All welcome. No cost. R.S.V.P. 705-286-2541.

4.00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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For more information, contact our office at 705-286-0727

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PERSONALS

I wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Matthew 24:29* But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give it's light and the

stars will fall from the sky, and the

powers of heaven will be shaken. Everyone should have a flashlight that works! WHY? Matthew 18:12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, does not he not leave the ninety-nine and goes into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray. Matthew 18:13 If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. Love from Simone



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In Loving Memory of

Edwin William "Ed" Pilcher

Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family. *In his 82 year.*

Beloved Husband of Marlene Pilcher (nee Corby) for 59 years. Loving Father of Ted, and Jeanette. Loving Grandfather and mentor to Christopher (Dee), Alicia, Sam, Ben and Loving Great-Grandfather to Jake and Ethan.

Survived by his sister Edna(Wes) Newell and sister in law Lois Goard. Predeceased by his siblings Art and Frank. Lifelong friend and Godbrother to Fred Deforest and special uncle to Paul Pilcher. Survived by many nieces and

Ed worked for 32 years in the trucking industry for Hewitt and Freightmaster. He could build, fix and make anything. Ed's stories, guidance and support will be missed by all.

In accordance with Ed's wishes a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Minden Food Bank or Heat

Bank would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0. www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of



Passed away peacefully at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Monday, December 16, 2019 with her loving family by her side. At the age of 91.

Betty (Chalmers) was the wife of the late William C. "Bill" Scott, MP for Victoria and Haliburton for 28 years. She is survived by her son Guy (Lori) and daughter Laurie, both of Kinmount, and was grandmother to five grandchildren: Shane,

Justin, Alicia (passed), Meg and Rachel. As well, she is remembered fondly by her many nieces and nephews. Betty is predeceased by her parents Jesse and Eliza Chalmers, by her sisters Doris (Garland) Barkwell, Madeline (Clarence) Hartin, by her brother Earl (Doreen) Chalmers and by brothers-in-law Ralph Scott (Florence) and Wayne Scott(Vada). Also fondly remembered by sister-in-law Margaret (late Bill) Mark

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.on Friday, December 20, 2019, from 3-5 pm and 7-9 pm. Then to the Kinmount Baptist Church, 4937 Monck Rd., Kinmount, Ontario K0M 2A0 for the Service to Celebrate Betty's Life at 1:00 pm. Spring internment at the Kinmount Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Kinmount District Health Services Foundation, Kinmount Bantist Church or the Kinmount Fair would be appreciated by the family.

Betty was born in Kinmount in 1928. In 1956 she and her husband, Bill Scott, took over a general store on the main street in the village. Scott's Store in downtown Kinmount became combination tourist information, meeting place and local landmark. They sold everything from soup to nuts. From her office at the back of the store she ran political campaigns, Kinmount Fair, meetings of every description, coffee breaks, news conferences, radio interviews, luncheon receptions, family reunions and just about every other event you could think of. Every Friday, a doctor would call in to pick up a list of patients for house calls, and sometimes even treating clients right in the office. She compiled a list of customers for the local heating oil company. Her office was also the second largest distributor of mail in the village.

And when there was no bank in Kinmount, she served as a financial trustee for some residents while cashing cheques for others. She practiced the old time business motto of customer service comes first'. Betty was always a community person, often providing services and aid to those in need, frequently at her own

She was the rock who held the business and her family together.

Cute cards

With all the enthusiasm they can muster, members of the Junior Sunday School class at Minden United Church take part in the traditional Christmas Pageant.

Announcing the imminent arrival of the shepherds, they proudly display their placards. The display was part of the annual White Gift Service and Pot Luck Supper held Sunday.





Number 1243



The world famous OCKCLIFFE This Week:

MUSIC FOR YOUR EYES

Wednesday, December 17, 1986

Fearrey acclaimed 1987 County Warden

The new Warden for Haliburton County is Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey. He was chosen for his third term in the county's highest political office, at the inaugural session of county council held Tuesday

evening.
The Dysart Reeve was nominated for the position by the deputy reeve of his

township, Bill Davis. The nomination was seconded by Bicroft Reeve Bill Howe. No other nominations were offered and so Fearrey was acclaimed to the office. The new Warden replaces Stanhope Reeve Harry

Davis at the head of the county council.

Fearrey outlined an ambitious program for his term as the county warden. His inaugural address covered a number of topics including the council's committee structure. Noting that the 1985 election brought a number of new faces to the county council table, he said these individuals have had an opportunity to become familiar with the concerns at the county level. He said he would be willing to support changes in the committee structure to take advantage of the experience these individuals had gained in the last year. He told the members of the council he wanted them to be better informed, not as a result of reading the minutes, but through dedication to their positions

He told the meeting the council would be involved in the creation of the countywide welfare system. He predicted this project, which was approved earlier this year, will require a great deal of effort on the part of all members of the council.

Fearrey said the council will also have to grapple with the question of the

deciding that it wants to take advantage of the abandoned rail line's recreational potential or dropping the matter altogether

The Dysart Reeve noted the county had also made a financial commitment to the construction of the 20 bed chronic care hospital planned for land adjacent to the Haliburton Hospital. He said the council must honour that commitment and hopefully retire the obligation quickly.

He also pointed out that Haliburton County is the only one in the province served by four full-time ambulance attendants. Fearrey noted that with the population and area served, and the increasing pro-portion of seniors in the county, increases in fulltime manpower must be

Pointing out that Haliburton County is no longer a "creature of Victoria County" (judicially) it was time for the council to press for the building of a county court house. He admitted this effort may take time, but the council should start working on it immediately.

The new Warden also called for a closer liason with the provincial Ministry of Industry. He said the county council must speak for the county rather than having a number of separate voices, as is the case now.

In other matters, the new Warden called for an increase in the presence of Sir Sanford Fleming College in the county and better service for those seeking drivers licence examinations. On the latter item, he said there was enough work in the county to keep a single examiner busy on a full-time basis rather than relying on the present scheduling which forces individuals to travel to Huntsville or other locations to obtain their

In closing he said, "This

might be my last chance as Warden. We as a council can take a regional or personal attitude as councillors, but we must work together as a county.

Fearrey paid tribute to the outgoing Warden Harry Davis for his year of hard work. "He has been a good ambassador for our county," he said.

The council meets today to strike its committees for the coming year. The first working session begins at 1 p.m. today.

McCausland receives second transplant

Glamorgan Reeve Bob McCausland has received a second heart and is reported to be progressing well, following an operation last Thursday morning. The second transplant was required after the first implanted organ was being rejected by his body.

The rejection began on Wednesday and resulted in the doctors at the hospital issuing what is called a Code

Nine request to medical facilities across North America. Fortunately suitable replacement heart became available in New Brunswick and a team of doctors was dispatched to remove the heart and return with it to Toronto.

The operation to implant the second heart was started at 3 o'clock Thursday morning and was completed

three and a half hours later. McCausland received his first heart in an operation

November 29. He had been told earlier this year that the operation would be required to replace his heart which had suffered serious damage as a result of two massive

The Gooderham resident appeared to be progessing well after the first operation and was reported to have been up and walking about a week after the operation.

According to a spokesperson for the hospital, McCausland is now described as being in stable condition. The official said he was scheduled to be moved from the intensive care unit of the hospital to a regular nursing unit, an indication that the doctors feel the patient is progressing well. He will be continually monitored for further signs of rejection by his body to the new organ.

Members of the man's family have been with him throughout the latest crisis.

The Times holiday hours

During the festive season, there will be a number of changes in The Times publishing schedule. Advertisers and readers are asked to note these changes and holiday period deadlines

Saturday December 20, deadline for December 22 issue of The Times

Monday, December 22, Christmas week issue of The

Tuesday December 23, The Times office closed at

December 24, 25, 26, The Times office closed. Saturday December 27, deadline for December 29 issue of The Times.

Monday, December 29, New Year's issue of The

Tuesday December 30, regular office hours. Wednesday December 31 and January 1, The Times

Friday, January 2, regular office hours. Normal deadlines, publication days and office hours will return starting January

Wishing you the best for the holiday season from

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